

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-06

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PASS HEW

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, IT
SUBJECT: SECRETARY CALIFANO VISIT TO ITALY

1. SUMMARY: SECRETARY CALIFANO CALLED ON MAY 4 ON MINISTER OF HEALTH ANSELMI AND ON THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (CNR) WHERE HE MET WITH THE PRESIDENT (QUAGLIARIELLO) AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. ARISING FROM THESE MEETINGS WERE SEVERAL LINES OF ACTION REQUIRING FOLLOWUP TO FURTHER ADVANCE U.S.-ITALY BIOMEDICAL COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF HEALTH POLICY ISSUES WITH MINISTER ANSELMI, WHO WAS ALONE AT THE MEETING, SECRETARY CALIFANO ASKED THAT SUPPORT BE GIVEN TO ITALIAN EXPERTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTING THE HEALTH MOU. HE ALSO MADE A GENERAL INQUIRY ABOUT THE DIRECTIONS ANSELMI WOULD LIKE TO SEE IMPLEMENTATION TAKE. IN HER REPLY ANSELMI MADE IT CLEAR THAT SHE HAD BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER MATTERS (HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM, MENTAL HEALTH REORGANIZATION AND HOSPITAL DOCTORS' STRIKE) AS WELL AS THE MORO KIDNAPPING. SHE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTION OF MOU IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND WRITE TO SECRETARY CALIFANO. THE MISSION WILL FOLLOW UP BY SEEKING OCCASIONS TO BRING CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION PLANS ARISING

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PAGE 02 ROME 08443 091514Z

FROM THE MARCH 29-31 MEETING IN WASHINGTON TO THE ATTENTION OF ANSELMI AND HER SENIOR STAFF. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THAT A COPY OF THE OUTCOME OF THE MARCH MEETING HAS ONLY BEEN RECEIVED BY THE MISSION DURING THE CURRENT VISIT.

3. AT CNR QUAGLIARIELLO MADE A GENERAL APPEAL FOR EXPANDING CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CNR AND NIH ESPECIALLY IN THE AREAS COVERED BY

THE ITALIAN BIOMEDICAL QTE TARGETTED RESEARCH PLAN UNQTE (ROME A-27, FEBRUARY 17). IN ADDITION TO MAKING SOME STRONG POINTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF MERIT IN OUR SYSTEM OF RESEARCH SUPPORT AND ABOUT HEW'S PROJECT FOR A 5-YEAR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH PLAN, THE SECRETARY RESPONDED TO QUAGLIARIELLO'S GENERAL PLEA WITH A SPECIFIC OFFER TO SEND NIH DIRECTOR FREDRICKSON AND NCI DIRECTOR UPTON (OR A DEPUTY) TO ITALY TO DISCUSS EXPANDED COLLABORATION. THE ITALIANS WERE CLEARLY DELIGHTED WITH THIS OFFER. THE SECRETARY ASKED THAT THEY PREPARE FOR SUCH A VISIT A LIST OF AREAS OF INTEREST FOR COOPERATION.

4. SCIATT, WHO MET MAY 5 WITH THE CNR GENERAL SECRETARY MANGO, ASKED THAT TWO PAPERS BE PREPARED IN ENGLISH FOR HEW AND NIH. THE FIRST WOULD BE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES BEING SUPPORTED BY THE ITALIAN BIOMEDICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL QTE TARGETTED RESEARCH PLANS UNQTE. THE SECOND PAPER WOULD INCLUDE PROPOSALS FOR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. IT WAS AGREED THAT THESE PAPERS WOULD BE DELIVERED BY THE END OF JULY, WHICH WE BELIEVE IS A REASONABLE DATE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM WHEN IN THE FALL FREDRICKSON AND UPTON, OR A DEPUTY, MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR DISCUSSIONS HERE.

6. THIS TELEGRAM NOT CLEARED BY SECRETARY CALIFANO. GARDNER

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